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sharp terminal points of the tail feathers. It has also longer and more slender toes.

A number of these birds were observed for several evenings flying near our camp in company with large numbers of *Cypselus Vauxii*. They kept for the greater part near the edge of the forest, and generally flew so high as to be out of the reach of shot of any usual size. One specimen was obtained, which is a male, in apparently adult plumage, and is described above.

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December 1st, 1857.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A communication was received from M. Belhomme, Chef du Jardin Botanique de Metz, (Moselle,) detailing some investigations made by him with reference to a carmine obtained from *Monarda didymia*, and a new alkaloid from *Atropa belladonna*, called by him Bella-donnine; which was referred to the Committee on Proceedings.

A letter was received from E. B. Plympton, dated Providence, R. I., Nov. 27th, 1858, announcing the decease of Dr. W. Blanding, late a Correspondent of the Society. Mr. Cassin and Dr. Hays remarked on Dr. Blanding's devotion to Natural History, and the interests of the Academy.

The following papers were presented :

Description of several new North American Reptiles, by E. Hallowell, M. D.

Intended for publication in the Proceedings.

Descriptions of Exotic Genera and Species of the Family Unionidæ, by Isaac Lea, LL. D.

Intended for the Journal.

Which were referred to the Committees, as usual.

Dr. J. A. Meigs announced the death, at Panama, on the 16th inst., of Mr. Geo. R. Gliddon, late a correspondent of the Academy.

On leave granted, Dr. Leidy offered the following resolutions, which were seconded by Mr. W. Parker Foulke :

*Resolved*, That the members of the Academy have learned with deep regret the death of their late Correspondent, Geo. R. Gliddon, Esq., by whom the subject of Egyptian antiquities was first made familiar to the public mind of the United States; through whose services mainly, our late President, Dr. Morton, received those indispensable materials for his work on Egyptian Craniology, which now enrich the Museum of the Academy; and whose indefatigable efforts were constantly given towards promoting a rapid interchange of information between the learned of both hemispheres, upon subjects of leading importance in Natural History.

*Resolved*, That the members of the Academy desire to bear witness to the extraordinary and disinterested zeal manifested by Mr. Gliddon, during the period of his personal connection with the labors of this Institution; and to his sincere and ardent pursuit of what appeared to his own judgment as scientific truth; and they also desire to record their appreciation of the kind and friendly relations which it was his constant and successful endeavor to maintain with them.

*Resolved*, That the members of the Academy tender to the beloved wife of Mr. Gliddon, his companion and aid in much of his valuable labor, their most respectful and hearty sympathy.

Which were unanimously adopted.  
1857.]

Dr. Bridges announced the death of Mr. Chas. McEuen, late a member of the Academy.

Dr. Leidy called the attention of the members to a bottle containing numerous specimens of a large species of *Gordius* discovered by Dr. Wm. A. Hammond, 525 miles west of Fort Riley, Kansas Territory. Dr. Hammond states they were found in a pond in great numbers, in company with *Siredon*. They swam actively forward an inch or two beneath the surface of the water, and occasionally lifted the anterior end even above the latter.

The collection contains 24 females and the same number of males. The females are cylindrical, light brown of various shades, shining, iridescent; anterior extremity narrowed; head surrounded with a dark brown ring; tail obtuse, slightly compressed, with a terminal genital pore. The males are darker colored than the females; tail extremity more or less spirally enrolled, with the extremity bifurcated; forks divergent, incurved, smooth, connected at base anteriorly by a crescentic fold, in advance of which is the genital pore; head as in the female.

The females measure from 10 inches in length by  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a line thick, to 2 feet 6 inches in length and 3-5ths of a line thick; the males 8 inches in length by  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a line thick, to 2 feet 2 inches in length by 2-5ths of a line thick.

Dr. Leidy next directed the attention of the members to a bottle containing seven specimens of the larva of a species of *Oestrus* or bot-fly. They were obtained by Dr. Hammond from a pouched rat, *Thomomys borealis*, at Bridger's Pass, on the summit of the Rocky Mountains, July 1857. Dr. Hammond found the rat panting on the road side, without power of escaping. The bots were found situated beneath the skin of the back, belly, and thigh.

The body of these larvæ is oblong oval, compressed, incurved; head minute, composed of a transverse pair of papillary eminences, each supporting two minute ocelli, and having projecting from beneath, forward and downward, a pair of strong black hooks. Spiracular laminæ trilobed and marked with vermicular lines. Segments of the body closely covered with discoidal corneous tubercles, of which the anterior ones have their posterior border projecting and dentated.

The smallest is light yellowish brown; and as they become larger they assume a darker tint. The largest are black, hard, shining and remarkably shagreened in appearance.

Length of the smallest larva 5 lines, breadth 3 lines, thickness  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lines; length of largest 9 lines, breadth  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lines, thickness 3 lines.

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December 8th, 1857.

#### Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Dr. Leidy called the attention of the members to a drawing of a curious animalcule, found attached to stones and dead stems of plants in the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. The animal, though closely allied in structure to the Rotatoria or wheel animalcules, yet possesses no rotary or other ciliated apparatus. The body is regularly oval, transparent, colorless, and finely tuberculated. From the anterior truncated extremity of the body, the animal projects and retracts at will a delicate cup-shaped membrane about half the size of the body. The membrane exhibits delicate and distant longitudinal and circular muscular fibres, which are branching. At the bottom of the cup the mouth communicates with a capacious stomach, and this with a muscular gizzard with lateral jaws, as in most rotifers, and which, as in these, are constantly in motion. From the gizzard opens a second stomach, which communicates with a short intestine terminating in a posterior anal aperture. The digestive apparatus is attached to the outer tunic of the body by diverging muscles. The visceral cavity usually contains numerous eggs in various stages of development, from that containing the germinal vesicle to such as contain the fully formed embryos. Attached to the inner surface of the body are a number of opaque, white, irregularly oval bodies.

[December,